

Division of Wildlife Conservation
Eddie Grasser, Director

Region I, Sitka Area Office
304 Lake Street, Room 103
Sitka, AK 99835



Alaska Department of Fish and Game
Doug Vincent-Lang, Commissioner

PO Box 115526
Juneau, AK 99811-5526
www.adfg.alaska.gov

Advisory Announcement

For Immediate Release: July 24, 2020

CONTACT: Stephen Bethune
Area Management Biologist
(907) 747-5449

Baranof Island Mt. Goat Hunting

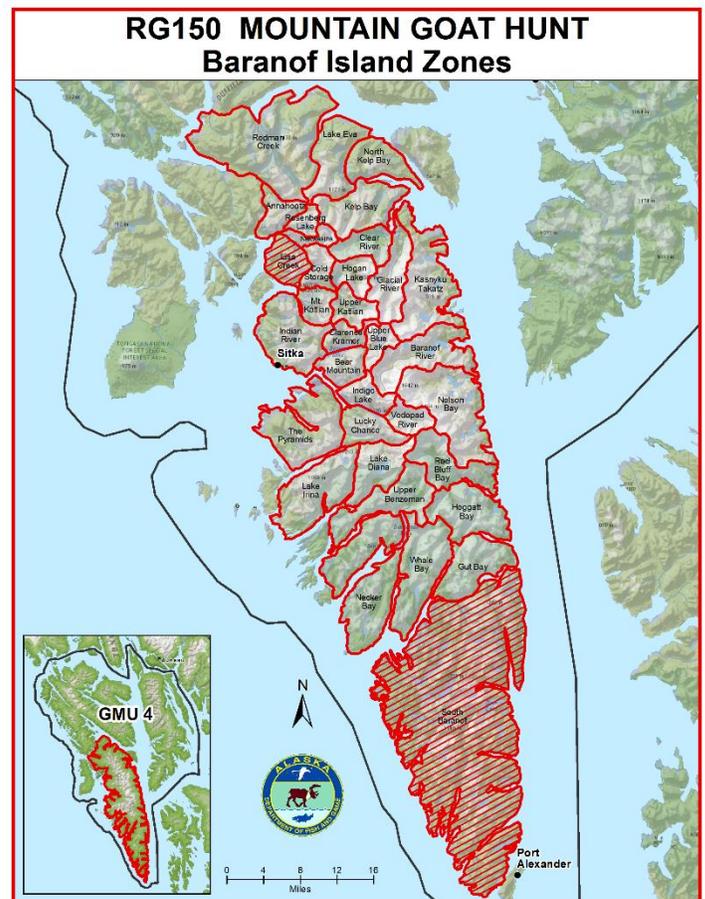
(Sitka) – The 2020 mountain goat season begins Saturday, August 1st. Based on aerial surveys conducted in 2019, mountain goat populations appeared to be at or near historic high levels last fall. A series of mild winters along with hunters being selective for male goats led to this increase. However, snow conditions and mortality data from collared goats during the winter of 2019/2020 indicate that the goat population on Baranof Island has likely declined since the most recent surveys.

Emergency Order (EO) 01-03-20 was issued to close the mountain goat season in 2 of 34 zones on Friday, July 31, 2020 @11:59 pm.

Zones closed by this EO (South Baranof and Lisa Creek) could be over-utilized due to low populations levels and accessibility. Managers will re-assess and make in-season adjustments to quotas and zone closures when updated surveys are conducted in September.

Those portions of Unit 4 not affected by this emergency order will remain open until harvest quotas are reached or the season concludes.

ADF&G is again requesting hunters bring in the head of their harvested goat to obtain nasal swabs as part of statewide *Mycoplasma ovipneumoniae* (Movi) surveillance. Movi is a bacteria that can lead to respiratory disease and is linked to large scale die-offs of bighorn sheep in the lower 48.



For maps, zone quotas, FAQ's and other information, contact the Sitka area office at (907) 747-5449.

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